Group Guide

Servant/King

December 6, 2026

Main Passage: Mark 10:35-45; John 13:1-17; Revelation 19:16

Theological Theme

Jesus is the King of kings, but He modeled humility and obedience in His earthly ministry.

Introduction

? What other stories from history or pop culture come to mind when you think of people in power enjoying special privileges?

? What do you know about how Jesus approached special privileges during His ministry?

1. Suffering and Service (Mark 10:35-45)

In this well-known interaction, James and John asked to sit at Jesus's right and left sides in glory. To sit at the right hand of a king was a great honor, and the left hand was a close second. James and John sought honor in God's kingdom in the same way humans were honored on earth. But Jesus's perspective on greatness was entirely different.

? What did James and John think they were asking for in this passage?

? How did Jesus point to the reality they did not see in the moment?

? What are some ways you've been surprised by the reality of the kingdom of God compared with your expectations of it?

2. The Servant King (John 13:1-17)

In the Gospel accounts, we see Jesus serving again and again. He healed, helped, and taught, and in this passage, not far from His ultimate sacrifice on the cross, Jesus took on the role of a literal servant before the Twelve.

? How did the disciples react to Jesus's actions in this passage? Why?

How do these events tie in with what Jesus taught in our previous passage in Mark?

How does Jesus's service to us motivate us to serve others? How does it free us to do so?

3. King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)

For those of you who weren't with us as we studied Revelation, this chapter presents an image of Jesus that might look different from images we frequently call to mind. This picture of Jesus is powerful, fierce, and victorious over the forces of evil, as evidenced by His titles of King of kings and Lord of lords.

What does this verse communicate about Jesus's identity?

Why is this relevant to our discussion today?

How does Jesus's humility further reveal His greatness?

Conclusion

How does the example of leadership and authority that Jesus set differ from what we commonly see in human kingdoms and organizations?

How are we called to be humble and serve others in light of our identity in Christ?

How might living this way give you opportunities to share Jesus with others?